

Government.

[Translation]

Wholesale and Retail Prices of Essential Commodities

610. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY :
SHRI KASHI RAM RANA :

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) the difference between the present wholesale and retail prices per kilogram of essential commodities in the metropolitan cities;

(b) whether any guidelines have been issued in regard to maximum difference permissible between wholesale and retail prices of the essential commodities;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the method by which the Government monitor the prices of essential commodities particularly retail prices so as to safeguard interests of the consumers ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) A Statement showing the wholesale and retail prices of selected essential items as on 5.2.1997 at Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta and Madras is given in the Statement.

(b) and (c) There are no guidelines in regard to maximum difference permissible between wholesale and retail prices.

(d) Based on the data received from the State Governments, the Central Government monitors on a daily basis the retail prices of 12 essential commodities at selected centres in the country and takes appropriate measures to safeguard the interests of the consumers.

Statement

Wholesale and Retail Prices of Selected Essential Commodities in the Metropolitan Cities as on 5.2.1997.

(Rs. per kg.)

	Delhi		Bombay		Calcutta		Madras	
	Wholesale	Retail	Wholesale	Retail	Wholesale	Retail	Wholesale	Retail
Rice	7.50	12.00	8.75	10.00	7.80	8.00	8.64	11.00
Wheat	6.25	8.00	10.51	12.50	N.R.	N.R.	12.07	13.00
Gram	12.50	16.50	16.51	20.00	13.80	16.00	14.76	17.00
Tur	17.00	28.00	30.00	34.00	20.00	28.00	25.89	30.00
Sugar	11.60	14.50	12.40	14.00	12.60	14.00	12.53	13.00
Groundnut Oil	38.00	50.00	34.00	42.00	44.00	54.00	32.44	39.00
Mustard Oil	32.00	38.00	42.00	44.00	33.00	36.00	N.R.	N.R.
Vanaspati	37.66	38.00	36.00	44.00	39.33	45.00	33.78	41.00

Prices are originally reported per quintal and have been converted to Rs. per kg.

Source : Civil Supplies Department.

Son of Soil Welfare Scheme

611. SHRI KACHARU BHAU RAUT : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the 'Soil' Welfare scheme has been

launched in Maharashtra; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) and (b) Information is being

collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Soyabean Processing Industry

612. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the fact that the Soyabean processing industry is facing a serious crisis;

(b) whether the demand of Indian soyabean oil-cake is decreasing in the international market; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) The production of Soyabean during 1995-96 was 49.9 lakh tonnes against the target of 43.0 lakh tonnes while during 1996-97 it is likely to be 51.1 lakh tonnes against the target of 50.0 lakh tonnes. Therefore, production is more than its target during last two years. However, due to excess processing capacity the processing industry is facing shortage of soyabean for processing.

(b) and (c) Based on the information published by Solvent Extractors Association, export of soyabean meal over the year is as follows :

Year	Export in lakh tonnes
1991-92	13.17
1992-93	21.78
1993-94	21.90
1994-95	15.60
1995-96	25.60
	(Provisional)

It is apparent that the export of soyabean meal has been increasing during last five years except during 1994-95 when it declined because of the poor crop of soyabean in the country due to unfavourable weather conditions.

[English]

Atrocities on Dalits

613. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH :

SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT :

SHRI KISHAN LAL DILER :

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of India are aware that atrocities on dalits are going up all over the country during

this year;

(b) if so, the total number of cases registered in this connection in various States for the same;

(c) whether the Government of India will issue directions to State Governments to take immediate action in such cases; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SING RAMOOWALIA) : (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) and (d) The Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 provides for stringent penalties for various kinds of atrocities committed on Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes by persons belonging to other communities. Rules notified under the Act in 1995 provide a systematic framework and procedures for various measures to deal with atrocities. Central Assistance released to the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations to support measures undertaken by them for effective implementation of the Act has been enhanced from Rs. 9.75 crores in 1994-95 to Rs. 15.37 crores in 1995-96. These measures include, inter-alia, strengthening of the administrative and enforcement machinery and setting up of Special Courts. The position is reviewed from time to time with the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations, recently during the conference of State Ministers and Secretaries concerned with SC and ST Welfare held in February, 1996.

Fake Passports and Visas

614. SHRI RAMSAGAR : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Greek shipwreck tragedy has brought into light a racket operating in fake passports and visas;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of foreign nationals apprehended in Delhi during the last one year in this connection ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Waste Disposal by Hospitals

615. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any study has been made by the